(e) the road-map to achieve the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) In an interview to an Indian news channel in December 2006, President Musharraf made certain proposals on Jammu and Kashmir, These included identification of the area to which these proposals would apply, making the Line of Control irrelevant, demilitarisation, self governance and joint management.

(c) to (e) The issue of J&K is being discussed between India and Pakistan within the framework of the Composite Dialogue. During the last round of the Foreign Secretary talks, in January 2006, the Foreign Secretaries discussed various proposals including the above concepts. During the meeting between Pakistan President Musharraf and Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh in New York on 24 September 2004 it was agreed that possible options for a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the issue should be explored in a sincere spirit and purposeful manner.

Amount UN owes to India

1847. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that inordinate delay on UN's part in clearing $ 180.55 million dues to India could adversely affect the country's capacity to participate in future peace-keeping operations as well as to compensate for troops-cost, contingent owned equipment lease and other specific services;

(b) if so, the reasons for UN's financial crunch and consequential non-payment to India; and

(c) what steps Government have taken so far in this regard, indicating the amount that UN owes to other member countries in comparison to India till date?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) India continues to be one of the largest troop contributors to UN peacekeeping operations notwithstanding delays in reimbursement of dues by the UN. The delay in making payments to India and other troop contributing countries is mainly due to some member

states withholding or delaying their mandatory financial contributions to the United Nations. The Government continue to actively follow up this matter with the UN authorities as well as other member states. The Government has also raised this issue in the UN General Assembly and its Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. Out of a total of nearly US $ 706 million owed by the UN to member countries for participation in peacekeeping operations, a payment of nearly US $ 70 million is currently due to India.

Killing of Indians and Pakistanis in Iraq

1848. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a militant group 'Ansar al Sunna' an Al Qaeda linked group in Iraq, claimed in September, 2006 that it killed 10 Indians and Pakistanis when they were on way to Syria;

(b) if so, whether all deceased Indians were identified by Iraqi authorities and their families informed by Government;

(c) if not, whether the matter has been taken up with the Iraqi authorities and their response thereto; and

(d) who would be liable to pay compensation to families of those killed by militant groups abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) No. On August 31, 2006, 14 men including three Indians and eleven Pakistanis were killed by some unidentified attackers in Iraq while they were travelling from Damascus to Karbala.

(b) and (c) They were identified by their relatives/fellow pilgrims travelling in the same group as Shri Jaffar Mashaddy from Nagaram near Vishakhapatnam, Shri Mohiyuddin Beg from Hyderabad and Shri Mohamed Ahmed Ali from Hyderabad. The RPO in Hyderabad also got in touch with the relatives of the persons affected in this incident. The Iraqi authorities were informed about the incident by the Indian Embassy in Baghdad and they assured suitable assistance.

(d) There is no policy for payment of compensation.